

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW BIRD FROM THE ISLAND OF CERAM,
MOLUCCAS.

BY F. MUIR AND J. C. KERSHAW.

While collecting in the Dutch East Indies a new *Pitta* was captured which may be known as

***Pitta piroensis* sp. nov.**

Type.—An adult male from Piroe, Ceram, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cat. No. 49,997, collected by the authors, March 2, 1909.

Description.—Forehead and upper part of head and neck dark red-brown, the crown divided by an obscure median bluish stripe; a large sub-quadrangular scarlet nuchal patch. Throat dark brown, shading into black on upper part of breast. Ear coverts and lower part of breast silvery blue-gray. Back and scapulars dark olive green. Tail and upper tail coverts grayish-blue. Bend of wing nearly black, feathers lighter round edge; lesser coverts blue-gray, the feathers dark brown at base; greater coverts very dark brown, edged and tipped with dark blue-gray. Primaries nearly black, the 2d, 3d, 4th and 5th with a white speculum marking, but only the 4th and 5th have the white on the upper side of the outer web. Under wing-coverts dark bluish gray. Belly, vent and under tail-coverts scarlet. Eyes brown; bill black; legs and feet pale lead color; claws brownish; soles of feet ochreous. Total length, 6½ in.; wing, 3⅝ in.; tail, 1⅜ in.; bill (to gape), 1 in.; tarsus, 1⅝ in.

This species differs from *P. rubrinucha* Wallace, in its slightly smaller size, its silvery blue-gray ear-coverts, in the absence of the black line separating the silvery blue-gray of the breast from the scarlet belly, in the absence of a white shoulder spot, and in the different marking of the white speculum spot on the primaries.